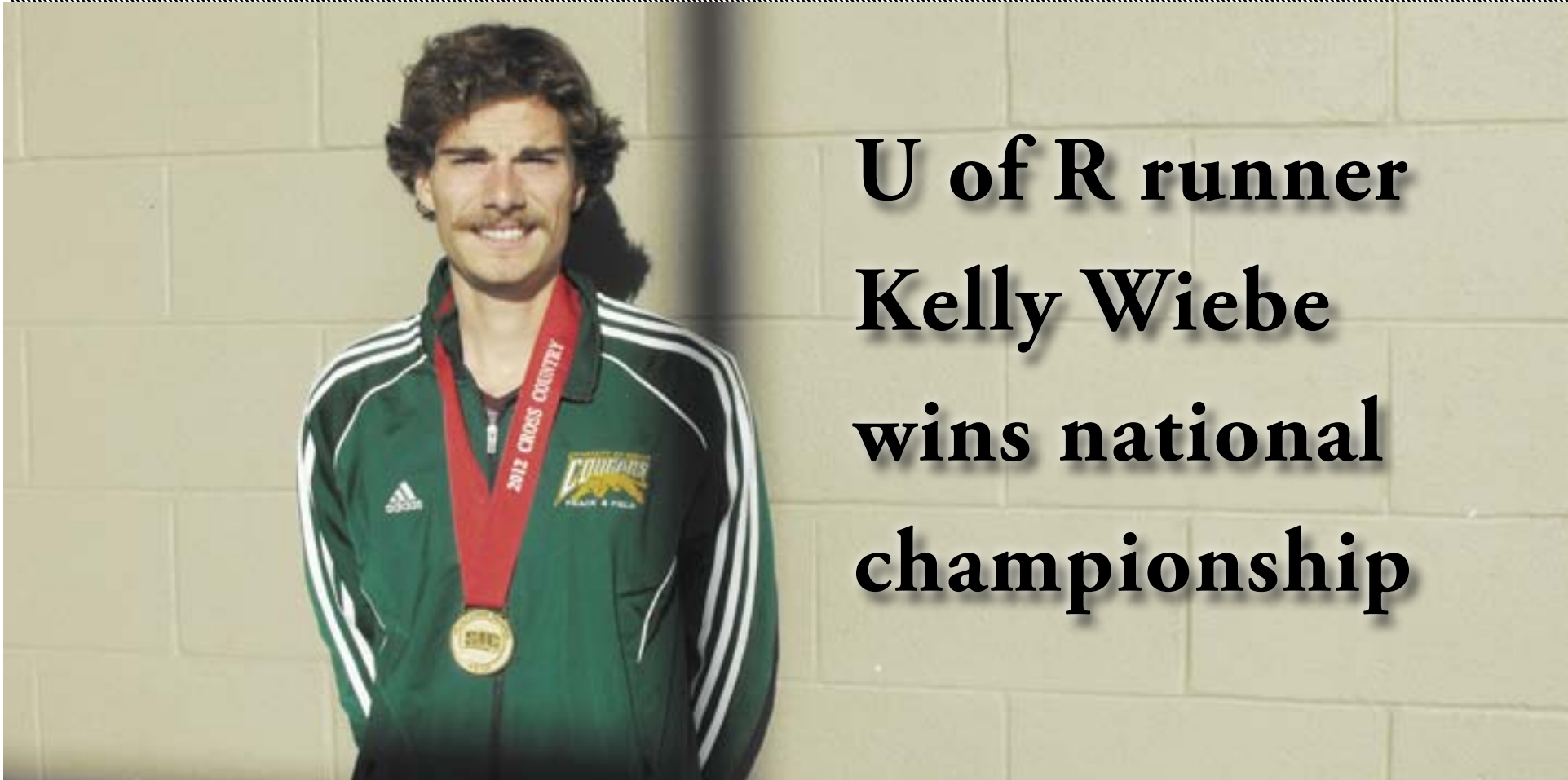




The Saskatchewan Party has raised its glass to the idea of lowering the province’s drinking age from 19 to 18. Are U of R students drinking to this? Pg. 2



U of R runner Kelly Wiebe wins national championship

Kelly Wiebe poses with the gold medal he won at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship Nov. 10 at the Thames Valley Golf Course in Ontario. It was his first CIS title and it was also the first time a U of R runner earned that honour. Photo by Jonathan Hamelin

BY JONATHAN HAMELIN
@JonathanH1991

When Kelly Wiebe crossed the finish line first on Nov. 10, it meant a number of firsts. It was Wiebe’s first national championship victory at the university level. It was the first time a University of Regina cross-country athlete earned that honour. Wiebe’s time of 30 minutes 21 seconds was good for first all-time in the course record books. “I felt overjoyed,” said Wiebe, a fifth-year environmental systems engineering student. “I really needed the gold medal in order to feel accomplished in the CIS and just to be completely satisfied with my CIS career.” The 2012 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) cross-country championships, hosted by Western University, took place at the Thames Valley Golf Course in Ontario. Wiebe is no stranger to first-place finishes – he was undefeated in four previous races this season – but winning at the CIS level had proven difficult. Wiebe finished third at the event in 2009 and

2010. “I felt like I should have accomplished winning the CIS maybe two years ago already, but things didn’t work out the way I planned,” said Wiebe, who earned first-team all-Canadian and Canada West all-star nods. “I felt like I had to redeem myself, like there was a huge monkey on my back.” “I felt really overjoyed. I really needed the gold medal in order to feel accomplished in the CIS.” Wiebe came close to winning in the past, but clearly didn’t want to take any chances this time around, finishing ahead of the pack by 44 seconds in the race. Wiebe said it was like a “time trial” for him, as he built up a five- to 10-second lead after the first kilometre of the 10-kilometre track. Bruce McCannel, Cougars cross-country head coach, called it “the most impressive cross-country performance I’ve ever seen.” “He blew away the field,” McCannel said. “It was very

exciting to watch.” Wiebe’s performance helped the men’s team finish second in Canada West and seventh in CIS. Matt Johnson (21st; 32:28), Iain Fyfe (32nd; 32:48), Michael Middlemiss (67th; 33:52), Adam Strueby (80th; 34:15), Marc Beaton (105th; 35:23) and Sean Hooper (117th; 36:15) were the other members of the team. Johnson was named a first-team Canada West all-star and Fyfe earned a second-team nod. It wasn’t the best finish for the men – in 2009, the group finished first in Canada West and fourth in CIS – but McCannel said it was the “strongest team we’ve ever sent to nationals.” Due to injuries, the U of R didn’t send a women’s team, but Karissa LePage (18th; 18:06) and Avery Westberg (30th; 18:40) competed individually. McCannel said the women ran “very well.”

For LePage, it may have been her final race as a Cougar. “If this is the end, this was a good race to go out on,” said LePage, a fourth-year science student. “I think it’s been an amazing, amazing time. We have a great group of people and it’s just fun to spend time with them.” In Wiebe’s case, due to eligibility, this was his final race. According to Dick White, U of R director of athletics, Wiebe has left a legacy on the university’s sports scene by going out on top. “His performance tells us that we’re doing the right things to create an opportunity for championship performances,” White said. “If you’re an up-and-coming runner, why would you not want to come here?” Now that he has conquered Canada, Wiebe hopes to focus more on international races. His ultimate goal: the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. But first ... “He still has a track season left,” McCannel said with a smile. “We get to keep him for another six months.”

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Cause to keep a secret



Emma Graney, Regina Leader-Post reporter broke the story by visiting the church where the two students are taking sanctuary. Photo by Matthew Duigud

BY AUSTIN M. DAVIS
@theAustinX

Victoria Ordu and Ihuoma Amadi, two international students facing deportation, have received a lot of media attention since September. But the press has kept quiet about the juiciest detail: the name of the church where the two young women are hiding. Emma Graney broke the story on Sept. 11 for the Regina Leader-Post by going to the church and speaking with the two former University of Regina students from Nigeria. “Where they’ve taken sanctuary is something that their immigration consultant, or lawyer, doesn’t want to be

made public simply because of consideration of his concern that Canadian Border Services Agency may then go into the church and remove the girls,” Graney said. Ordu and Amadi haven’t left the church since June 19. The women opted to seek sanctuary after they were threatened with deportation back to Nigeria because they worked for two weeks at a Regina Walmart. Graney – and other media outlets covering the story after – agreed to not make the name of the church public. Graney said that the secrecy in which the women’s immigration consultant Kay Adebojun, arranged the interview cemented the seriousness of

the potential consequences of publishing the location. “I met with him somewhere and then he kind of drove me to where it is that they’re staying,” Graney said. “The fact that he’s going to such lengths seems, to me, would indicate that he really is concerned about the name of where they’re staying. He’s really concerned about that getting out.” Whitney Stinson did a story on Ordu and Amadi for Global Regina. She said she had no reservations about agreeing to not reveal the name of the church. “We were interested in getting the interview, that was one of their stipulations and I thought that that was fair.

Part of the reason that they’re ment when it is going to lead “We were interested in getting the interview, that was one of their stipulations and I thought that that was fair. Part of the reason that they’re in hiding is that there is a Canada-wide warrant for their arrest.”

- Emma Graney in hiding is that there is a Canada-wide warrant for their arrest,” Stinson said. Patricia Bell, a journalist and journalism professor with more than 30 years of experience said that releasing the name of the church is not in the public’s interest. “I would find it very difficult to justify breaking that agree-

Drinking age debated by students

BY DEREK CORNET
@Canadianmeat1

The debate on lowering the drinking age in Saskatchewan has heated up recently and university students haven’t been shy on speaking out. Between Nov. 4 and 6, the Saskatchewan Party held their yearly convention and were confronted with a new idea to think about. The Saskatchewan Party Youth presented a resolution to lower the drinking age in the province from 19 to 18, which has spurred debate province-wide ever since. Students at the University of Regina appear to be split on the issue. While some students approached by Ink were in favor of lowering the drinking age, others were against it, even going as far as suggesting a raise to the age limit. U of R student Demi Benjoe, 19, felt that the current age limit of 19 was still too young. She said that people her age weren’t responsible enough to consume alcohol or visit drink-

ing establishments. However another U of R student Zac Chorneyko, 25, said that the government should lower the age because if students want alcohol they’re going to find it. He said that he and his friends would often cross the Manitoba border in pursuit of beer when they were only 18. “Why not lower the age? Kids are going to get alcohol no matter what, regardless if they’re 16 or 18,” said Chorneyko. University of Regina Students’ Union president, Nathan Sgrazzutti, 19, was also in favour of lowering the current drinking age. He said between 2,000 and 4,000 students at the U of R are aged 18 and under. By lowering the age, Sgrazzutti said more students would be able to take part in university functions that involve alcohol and feel more included when these events take place. He also said that lowering the age would increase revenue



A local student enjoys a pint during a tough fall semester. Photo by Matthew Duiguid

“All of the research indicates that adolescences are better to not be using alcohol because brain development continues until the the early twenties.”

-Rand Teed at the Owl, which incurred \$157,890 in debt between April 2011 and April 2012. Rand Teed, the creator of Drug Class, a show that enters high schools in Regina and documents cases of addiction,

“All of the research indicates that adolescences are better to not be using alcohol because brain development continues until the early twenties,” said Teed. While the issue has not yet been debated upon in the legislature, its certain that when and if the issue is brought up, there will be many people eager to have their opinions heard.



Spurred by low prices at new Costco pumps, Regina’s gas stations have slashed their prices in the last three weeks. Photo by Aaron Stuckel

BY AARON STUCKEL
@aaronstuckel04

While falling gas prices may have many drivers cheering at the pumps, not everyone is excited about the changes. Gas prices fell over 15 cents per litre at many stores across Regina in the last three weeks, and the average is now sitting at around 111.9 cents per litre. “Gas prices had no business being 129.9. They were way too high at the time,” said Jason Toews, co-founder of GasBuddy.com. “The gas stations had a lot of profit margin and they set the fall.”

The dip in prices was set off by the opening of a Costco gas station in the east side of the city, according to Toews. Costco Wholesalers, the seventh largest retail chain in the world, has traditionally undercut its competitors in its sales prices in order to grow its membership. “What Costco does when they come to a market is they continuously lower their prices to establish a customer base,” said Toews. “They want to be seen by their consumers as one of the cheapest or the cheapest stores around.” According to Toews, Costco is able to keep its prices low because it does not make as much

of a profit on fuel as other service stations do. He also added that often time cheap gas is just another way to get people into their store. “If you buy gas at Costco, you’re probably going to go inside the store and buy other products as well,” he said. But even though falling gas prices may seem like a dream to some consumers, the situation is an area of concern for others like Rick Morrell, executive director of the Saskatchewan Eco Network. “Reducing the price is just encouraging them to continue what they’re doing,” said Morrell, who advocates for sustainable energy and reduced fossil fuel consumption. “If you tripled or quadrupled gas prices, people would actually have to think about whether or not they wanted to have an automobile.” According to Morrell, fuel consumption needs to be reduced by 90 per cent for continued pollution to keep from hitting a breaking point. He said CO2 levels in the atmosphere could reach serious levels in the next 30 years, unless something is done. “If we don’t radically change the amount of fossil fuels we burn, the future is going to be pretty bleak,” he said. “I don’t know that a short-term change is going to have

that much effect on fuel efficiency or people’s lifestyle choices, but certainly in the long term, the thing that would encourage the kinds of behaviours that we need to see is higher prices, not lower prices.” Gas prices are predicted to fall by another three or four cents per litre by the end of the year. In spring, however, the annual market cycle will bring prices back up again, according to Toews. “Enjoy the cheap prices while they’re here,” he said.

MAN ON THE STREET

How will changes to liquor laws affect you?



Dale Jezowski
“I don’t care if they (serve alcohol at strip-teases). I probably won’t be going and watching it anyways.”



Naomi Schofer
“I think that’s ok. Why can’t they serve alcohol? They’re keeping it separate from the rest of the movie theatre.”



Rhonda Christison
I’m ok with that. I guess you have to control how much they drink (at the theatre).”



Rich Schofer
“If I was 18, I might have an opinion, or if I owned a strip club.”



Tami Rybchuk
“I guess it’s really no different as long as they ask for ID still. Fourteen-A movies, yeah, but not G movies.”



Photo by Matt Duguid

Province ponders anti-bullying legislation

BY ROXANNA WOLOSHYN
@mynameisroxanna

Bullying is something Stacey Danger Ferguson of Regina has dealt with first hand. Her son was beaten so badly by another student on the school playground that he had to have surgery. But nothing was done by the public school board or the police, she said.

“I was incensed. My child was hurt. This wasn’t a case of one black eye -he had to have two surgeries... And the child who did it was never punished,” said Danger Ferguson.

She said the provincial government needs to do some-

thing to protect people who are being bullied.

Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces in Canada that do not have anti-bullying legislation.

“We are doing an inter-jurisdictional review including looking at the legislation. If we go in that direction, we want to make sure that what we’ve got is effective,” said Russ Marchuk, minister of education.

Bullying is not a new issue in Canada, but provincial governments, specifically British Columbia and Alberta, have proposed new tools and legislation to combat it.

The Government of Alberta is close to passing a new

education act, which would grant new authority to school boards to deal with bullying and discrimination. But the legislation has not been without controversy. The governing Conservatives have cut out a clause in the bill that suggested all coursework in schools must adhere to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Alberta Human Rights Act. But some parents have said their right to choose their children’s education is paramount, which may include information that is at odds with the Charter and the Human Rights Act.

“What we don’t know right now is how well (anti-bullying legislation is) working but (it is) certainly on our radar,” said

Marchuk.

B.C. premier Christie Clark and her government launched a new website Monday to fight the problem. Students can anonymously report abuse by visiting www.erasebullying.ca.

Canadian Red Cross offers youth engagement programs to

“We are doing an inter-jurisdictional review including looking at the legislation.”

-Russ Marchuk

promote harassment-free envi-

ronments in schools. Legislation is a big part of the solution, said Norm Jakubowski, provincial manager for Canadian Red Cross’ RespectED program.

“What we need is legislation complemented by education and that has to be complemented by getting the people who are most affected more involved in the solution,” he said.

“There needs to be legislation for bullying... because there is nothing right now that teaches kids you are accountable for your behaviour,” said Danger Ferguson.

Marchuk said the review process for anti-bullying legislation is on-going and he has

Citizens struggle despite strong job market

BY JORDAN HALKYARD
@notjhaltyard

Job numbers both in Canada and Saskatchewan went up in the past three months, according to a report from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. Currently, the country has a job vacancy rate 2.4 per cent, representing about 275,900 full and part-time positions available across the country. The Canadian unemployment rate sits at 7.4 per cent.

Saskatchewan was tied with Alberta for the highest job vacancy rate among provinces, with a rate of 3.6 per cent. This number represents about 11,700 jobs scattered all across the province.

“Job vacancies have increased at the same pace as the economy has grown. The small gain in vacancies observed in the third quarter mirrors the slow growth in GDP,” said Ted Mallett, the CFIB’s chief

economist and vice-president, in a press release on Nov. 13.

But although job vacancies are rising, there are many who are struggling to find work in areas with strong economies such as Saskatchewan. Ryan Gieni has been grinding to find work for nearly seven months. Gieni was a funeral director in Regina for 12 years before he was laid off in April. Since then, Gieni described his experience as an unemployed man in one word: “Boring.”

“It was OK in the summer when my kids were off school, I could go around and do things with them ... But now, I am bored silly. There are only so many things on a ‘honey do’ list that a wife can give you... My eyes go buggy every day looking at the computer trying to find jobs,” Gieni said.

Since losing his job, Gieni has sent out his resume to dozens of different companies, with only one getting back to him about possible employment. Even with nearly 12,000

openings in the province, it can still be difficult for professionals like Gieni to find work. This can be because many available positions are entry level and are not comparable to the ones they were let go from. The areas with the highest amounts of job openings nationally are

construction, with 30,200 positions open, the hospitality industry, with 31,600 job openings, and the retail sector, with 39,900 potential jobs.

“I don’t want to sound conceited, but I think a lot of these jobs are a little bit below me. I mean, I have a university

degree and I was a professional funeral director for 12 years. Once you have done something like that for that long, it is hard to go (back down to the bottom again),” Gieni explained.



Saskatchewan’s economy may be doing better than it has in decades, but others around the province are struggling to find work. Photo by Roxanna Woloshyn

Federal cutbacks affect national historic sites



The Fort Walsh National Historic site, near Maple Creek, will also be affected by the cutbacks. Photo courtesy of wikicommons/ BrianToronto

BY JAZMINN HINTZ
@jaz10126

Starting next year you’ll have to become your own tour guide at about 30 of Canada’s historic sites.

The federal government is cutting \$29 million from the Parks Canada budget, forcing currently guided historical sites to become self-guided.

The cutbacks aren’t sitting well with Rose Gilks, general manager of SaskCulture, a nonprofit organization that brings together 130 organizations to promote a culturally vibrant Saskatchewan.

“There needs to be resources put into that area for the future so that people can remember what Saskatchewan came from and what it has all evolved... the heritage of Saskatchewan is very much a key element to our future, in terms of, it gives us our sense of place,” she said.

She said if money isn’t put into these sites, the province’s heritage and culture will be lost forever.

“If those places aren’t there and aren’t available to the

public...those stories and that sense of what people have done before us will be lost. People won’t understand how this place came to be and they won’t understand what makes it unique and what drives people in this province versus any other province. We just won’t know our heritage and our history,” she said.

In Saskatchewan, 22 national parks jobs will be cut and another 20 employees may face work reductions. At the Motherwell Homestead, a 100-year-old functioning farm, guides in period costumes will be replaced with display signs.

Parks Canada could only be reached via email for a statement and Parks Canada representative Lisa Leuty explained what factors decided the cutbacks.

“Factors in determining which sites were moved to self-guided included: visitation and visitation trends, financial sustainability, and uniqueness,” she wrote.

The Friends of the Motherwell Homestead, an organization that raises awareness about the site, have started a petition. So far the group has gath-

ered 5,000 signatures. Liberal member of Parliament Ralph Goodale will take the petition to the House of Commons.

Ellen Spilchen remembers visiting the farm when she was young and now enjoys taking her children there. She said it will be a loss to children when the Motherwell Homestead becomes self-guided.

“I think our history isn’t lost by our kids visiting these places and it stays with them, just like it stayed with me when I was young, and I don’t see how it wouldn’t benefit (the kids). Maybe eventually they would take their children to it,” she said.

Gilks hopes if the federal government isn’t willing to fund historic sites, the provincial government will step up and hopes it isn’t too late to change the government’s mind.

National historic sites in Alberta, Quebec and Maritimes will also be moved to self-guided tours because of the cutbacks.

New workplace penalties raise concerns

BY LESLIE-ANN KROEKER
@lkroeker13

Saskatchewan occupational health officers will soon have the power to issue summary offence tickets when workers are non-compliant with health and safety laws, but this isn’t sitting well with the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour.

“I think that it will be used for a tool against workers and maybe some supervisors. I don’t see where it will be effective at the top where we need to see change,” said Lori Johb, chair of the SFL occupational healthcare commission.

Starting July 1, 2013, officers can give summary offence tickets if 71 offenses are violated. These include anything that is a high risk of injury,

illness or death.

The payments will run from \$250 to \$1,000.

“Essentially, Saskatchewan is second-worst in terms of lost time injury rates in Canada,” said Ray Anthony, director of safety services for the Government of Saskatchewan. “We had to come up with another system so we went to the Summary Offences Act.”

The summary act is the same law that gives out traffic tickets or hunting tickets.

Although it might seem like these new changes will improve workplace safety, Johb isn’t convinced. She says the change comes with a handful of problems.

One problem is that being that the money will go to the provincial court system. She said it should go towards funding injury prevention instead.

“Prevention is our main concern here. Other provinces



Come next year, workers could be fined if they fail to follow the rules on the worksite. Photo by Leslie-Ann Kroeker

have gone this way, Ontario in particular, and it’s been proven that it hasn’t done anything with prevention. It will just target workers,” said Johb.

“It’s a concern because if they really want to talk seriously about prevention, they should be putting any money they can back in with prevention.”

But Anthony says the process has been implemented only to speed up the older system of workplace penalties.

“What used to take a year to two years will now take a month. It speeds the process up. It makes it more convenient for any workplace worker,” Anthony said.

The issue with setting up an administrative penalty system that controls the funds for these tickets is that Saskatchewan fines aren’t large enough

to make a brand new system, according to Anthony.

“We don’t see the fines being high enough,” said Anthony. “I’m in favour of prevention... whether another (financial) source is necessary I don’t know. I think part of the bringing in of this is there are circumstances where education is not working and we need additional tools to handle that.”

The regulation will start in the new year with a six-month trial period for education.

“We will monitor it and see how it’s working. We’ll continue to communicate with the department and the government and hopefully will be heard,” said Johb.

“We hope it has the desired effect, a reduction of lost time accident rates and injury and illness suffered by Saskatchewan workers,” said Anthony.

First Nations-inspired garb draws criticism

BY TONAYA MARR
@TonayaMarr

Victoria's Secret and the band No Doubt have been criticized for their use of First Nations imagery recently. No Doubt removed their music video for their single "Looking Hot," after heated comments claiming the band debased aboriginal culture, and Victoria's Secret model Karlie Kloss took to Twitter to apologize after parading down the catwalk in a recent show wearing a head dress and turquoise jewelry. Imitating First Nations culture has been a reoccurring point of debate lately. Popular clothing outlet Urban Outfitters is being sued for their use of the name Navajo in a tribal inspired clothing line. According to First Nations University English associate professor Jesse Archibald-Barber, the context in which the apparel is worn is important. Wearing the clothing to imitate First Nations culture can be offensive, while wearing it to make a statement or be ironic is less harmful. Archibald-Barber explained that taking sacred items, like head dresses or feathers, out of context is where many people get into trouble.

"Not everyone gets to wear (a feathered headdress)," said Archibald-Barber. "When someone from a non-native culture wears one simply as a fashion accessory, that's what understandably upsets people." However, for Jessica Cote, the owner of women's fashion store Obviously Chic, there's nothing wrong with the controversial clothing – controversy is part of fashion. "From a fashion side, fashion

"It's definitely problematic because those costumes depict the scantily-clad image of a Native woman."

- Jesse Archibald-Barber

is meant to express yourself and express your personality," she said. "You kind of have to take it with a grain of salt." Cote explained that she plans to sell First Nations-inspired clothing in her store, and that most of her cliental would never consider the clothing to be offensive. Halloween is another source of controversy. Each year, costumes like 'Indian Princess' are sold, which some say promotes negative stereotypes. It could be considered offensive to wear these costumes at any age, but Archibald-Barber

chose to wear a First Nations-inspired costume for Halloween. Colonel chose the costume because she liked the colours of the dress, and says she did not intend to offend anyone. For Colonel, who grew up in France, there's a double standard with what's offensive and what's not. "If someone dressed up as a French person, I'd laugh," she said. "I'd be like, 'That's really creative.'" But Archibald-Barber said there's a unique risk when dressing up as a culture. "There definitely is some-

thing extra when it is a marginalized group," he said. "When it's coming from a position of privilege within the dominant culture, there is less of a stigma or a threat."



An imitation of traditional First Nations clothing. Photo by Aaron Stuckel

Accessibility frozen out by icy sidewalks

BY VANDA SCHMOCKEL
@vschmo

Gabrielle Roberts-Winter has more reasons than most to dread the ice and snow that comes with living in Regina in winter. Roberts-Winter, a second year psychology student at the University of Regina, lives with cerebral palsy and mostly uses a wheelchair to get around - but that's often not an option when trying to negotiate icy or snow-covered sidewalks. "It can be challenging," she said. "In my case, I do have some mobility to walk so I have the choice, if it gets too challenging to (get around) in the chair, but if the walks were clear during the winter, it'd make it a lot easier for me." With the heavy snowfall that hit Regina last week, the city has already deployed its snow removal arsenal, sending scores of snowplows out in the wake of the storm. That should take care of the roads, but what about the sidewalks? Regina has no bylaw that requires individual homeowners to shovel their walks. Commercial building owners have between 24 and 48 hours to remove snow and ice on walkways abutting their property, depending on where in the city they are located. Failure to comply can result in a \$110 fine. Though, with



Icy walkways are a winter hazard. Photo by Matt Duguid

only five full-time city bylaw officers on staff, that doesn't always happen in a timely fashion – if at all. "We probably have over 20 bylaws, and they don't just (deal with) snow," said Lorne Chow, City of Regina bylaw manager. Regina has a 70 to 73 per

cent compliance rate when it comes to removing snow from residential sidewalks, Chow said, citing an independent study. Based on this, the city is not considering any new bylaws. Calgary and Edmonton have similar success rates with an enforced snow removal bylaw,

Chow said. "If we're achieving the same compliance rate as (they are), why would you want to draft another bylaw?" he said. Saskatoon, by contrast, enacted a residential snow removal bylaw in 2005. Fines for non-compliance after 48 hours range from \$100 for a first offence up to \$1,000 for multiple offences. According to city right-of-way engineer Gord Hundebey, the bylaw is working. "Compliance generally in 2007 was excellent," he said. "About 89 per cent of people who had a notice delivered to them complied and cleared their sidewalks. Last year, 99 per cent of people complied with the bylaw notices delivered." Roberts-Winter said that such a bylaw would benefit Regina, where many people with a variety of mobility issues find icy sidewalks impassable over the winter months. "I would definitely be in favour of that," she said. "It makes a big difference, and it's not just for those that have mobility issues - it's for everyone's health and safety."

Asbestos registry debated by NDP and family

BY CREESON AGEOUTAY
@CreeJournalist

After much support, the provincial government made the move to release an asbestos public registry after the death of Howard Willems. Willem's wife said she is thankful that the government has released the public registry, but said more needs to be done. "Our concern is that (the registry) is not mandatory," said Brenda Baergen, Willem's wife. "The government buildings are listed, which is a good start, however, there are still the school boards, crown corporations and all these other buildings missing." Howard Willems, a food inspector for 31 years, argued that people have a right to know if they're going into buildings that have asbestos and fought for a registry. Willems recently passed away Nov. 5 from mesothelioma, an asbestos related cancer of the lungs that he contracted while working. Last Tuesday, the province made a list of buildings containing asbestos that currently includes over 400 government and 29 Regina health care



NDP health critic, Cam Broten, fought in the Legislative Assembly to have the Asbestos Right-to-Know Bill to now be called Howard's Law. Photo by Creeson Ageoutay

facilities. More public buildings will be added to the list in the future, but the government is currently adding them on a volunteer basis. "At the present time, our focus is on making sure that the list is complete and reliable," said workplace safety minister Don Morgan. "We're trying to

push for actual legislation," said Broten. The bill was originally called the Asbestos Right-to-Know Bill but Broten said, with much support from the community, the bill would now be named Howard's Law, something Broten helped make a reality. "Howard was an amazing human face because he wanted a better and a safer environment for future generations for his children and that's why he was working so hard and that's why there's a lot of support for this," said Broten. Meanwhile, Baergen and the Willems family will continue to ask the government and hope to one day have a national registry in Canada. "Howard was committed. He was very concerned about other people, he was very much fighting for the rights of others, health and safety was always huge. He really wanted this registry done and he felt that people had the right to know because that's what he felt very strongly about." For the complete asbestos public registry list visit: <http://www.lrws.gov.sk.ca/asbestos>

looking to other jurisdictions to see how other governments are treating this unique kind of proposed legislation. NDP health critic Cam Broten also agrees that the list needs to be mandatory. "It's a good first step but it's just a part way of where we need to go, so we will continue to

Increased penalties for environmental offenders



The province is changing how it determines which new developments need environmental reviews. Offenders who break the act can now face fines up to \$500,000. Photo by Matt Duguid

BY MATT DUGUID
@Mattdogood

The provincial government recently increased the maximum penalty for companies and individuals who break regulations under the Environmental Assessment Act. Offenders who break the act, which determines what environmental safeguards are put in place on new developments like transmission lines and pipelines to intensive cattle farming operations, can now face a fine of up to \$500,000. This is up from the previous \$5,000. Those charged with an ongoing offence can face fines up to

\$250,000 per day, up from the previous \$1,000 per day under the old regulations. The new legislation also allows courts to impose jail terms of no longer than six months for offenders.

Saskatchewan by streamlining environmental assessment processes, while providing enhanced environmental protection to maintain the quality of life for Saskatchewan

ing project developers with increased certainty over what types of environmental rehabilitation, if any, they will have to do when considering a new or expanded facility.

"These changes will benefit the growing economy of Saskatchewan by streamlining environmental assessment processes while providing enhanced environmental protection to maintain the quality of life for Saskatchewan residents."

- Ken Cheveldayoff

The increased penalties are part of the province's new vision for the environmental review process. "These changes will benefit the growing economy of

residents," said Environment Minister Ken Cheveldayoff in a press release. Besides the increases in maximum penalties the legislation is also aimed at provid-

One of the biggest changes in the legislation is the move to a binding decision on whether new projects will be subject to an in-depth Environmental Impact Assessment.

"It's more legal certainty for the developer," said Jenna Mouck, acting manager in the environmental assessment branch. "Previously, project applicants would only receive an opinion from the ministry. now they receive a ministerial determination." The changes are more than just rhetoric though. Under the previous legislation, the provincial government would provide its opinion on whether a comprehensive environmental study was needed. This opinion could then be challenged by outside interest groups, including non-profits and environmental agencies. Now the ministry goes beyond granting its opinion, providing its own determination. The changes come only months after the federal government offloaded much of its own environmental review commitments to the provinces. At the time, Joe Oliver, natural resources minister, said the federal government would be moving to a "one project, one review" system for environmental projects, recognizing environmental reviews already done by the provinces. Environmental groups, including the David Suzuki Foundation, called the move a "gutting" of the environmental review process.

Analysis: Is China a-changin’?

BY CHRISTOPHER YIP
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Representatives from across China met this week to elect seven new Communist Party members to the top brass, including the party president and premier.

Then again, “elect” might not be the right word.

The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China included over 2,000 representatives from all over the country. Yet who ends up in those top positions is governed by constitution. What does that mean?

“China’s voting process is decided before the election. Everybody knows who will be the next president,” said Xie Su Yun, a graduate student from China now studying in Regina.

At 24 years old, he is six years over the voting age in China. But while he was still living in Chengdu, the capital of the Sichuan province, he saw no reason to vote.

“Everybody knows the election process, how fake it is,” he said.

It’s true that there were no surprises when Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang were elected for president and premier of the People’s Republic of China.

They were both acknowledged as shoo-ins for the roles months, even years, ago – and have been groomed to fit them for longer, in a process largely determined by high-ranking party officials.

But Yuchao Zhu, a professor



Professor Yuchao Zhu says the change in leadership may be a small step toward democracy for China. Photo by Christopher Yip

specializing in China-Canada relations at the University of Regina, points out an undercurrent of change in Chinese politics.

“There are some people within the government elite who promote political change, reform,” said Zhu. “The government is increasingly aware of those diversities in society (and) not being able to continue the total control of society. Although it’s still repressed, it’s changing.”

The longer the wait, Zhu said, the higher the probability

that public discontent will have to be dealt with by the government.

In the meantime, how will this new change in leadership affect China’s relations with Canada?

Globe and Mail reporter Ann Mehler Paperny pointed to the current cozy relationship between China and Canada, and how, for the time being at least, it has all the reason to stay the same.

“Will Xi want that? I think so, and I think China’s citizens will want to keep doing busi-

ness with (and immigrating to) Canada,” she said. In other words, if it ain’t broke, why fix it?

Professor Dongyan Blachford sees the same for Saskatchewan-China relations. The professor of Chinese cultural studies at the U of R noted that, during the Canadian premiers’ visit to China, Saskatchewan’s own Brad Wall was the lone premier chosen to give an interview on CCTV, China’s top television news network.

“(China) will continually need resources, and Canada

and Saskatchewan will be a market that they will be interested in,” said Blachford.

It seems the change in China’s leadership will not affect China-Canada relations, at least for now. When the Congress meets in 2017, people in China’s next generation, like Su Yun, hope change will come in the form of free speech.

“From my generation, most people don’t feel well, like they have something in their chest, but... you should better keep silent,” he said.

NEXT ISSUE:

See you in the New Year



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